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Neumann et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending. Claims 4, 5, 12, 16, and 17 are allowed. Claims 6 and 13 stand objected to. Claims 1, 3, 7-11, 14, and 15 stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, and 11 are requested to be canceled, rendering their rejections moot. After entry of this amendment, claims 4-10 and 12-17 will be pending.

Claims 6 and 13 are amended to independent form to include the limitations of the base claims from which they depended. Claims 6, 8, and 14 have been amended to correct antecedent basis. Claims 7, 9, 10, 14 and 15 have been amended to correct dependency. These amendments do not add new matter. These amendments are appropriate for entry because they place the claims in condition for allowance or alternatively in better form for consideration on appeal.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims, and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by an examiner's amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (707) 591-0789.

Respectfully Submitted,



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